



State of Utah


DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 29, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, Desert Lake Minerals and Emery Industrial Resources, Unpermitted WBF Quarry, S/015/091, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 20, 2002
Time of Inspection: 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Conditions: Mostly cloudy, windy, 70's
Participants: Bonnie Wiese; Will Snyder, land owner; Val Payne, Emery County Public Lands Council; and Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

On May 9, 2002, the Division received a letter from Will Snyder, President of Will Snyder and Sons, indicating this company owns patented mining claims that were leased to Dan L. Powell, Emery Industrial Resources, and Gerald B. Powell, Desert Lake Minerals. The letter said the lease with these two companies had recently been terminated due to lack of proper permitting. The purpose of the inspection was to investigate what mining had been done, the extent of disturbance, and what would need to be done to reclaim the site.

Getting to the site:

The site is on patented land in Section 24, Township 17 South, Range 10 East, SLBM. On the BLM 1:100,000 scale map, it is an odd-shaped piece surrounded by BLM land. As one travels east on the road leading to the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry, there is a sign that says "Dip 15 mph." Shortly after this dip is another sign with the same warning, but before getting to the second dip, there is a road leading to the south. According to Mr. Payne, this is an RS 2477 road. Taking this road for a short distance, one comes to an intersection consisting of about three roads at the top of a hill. Going right from this intersection, the humic shale outcrop and disturbance are visible from the road (Photo 1). The road continues down the hill to the west then up a small draw to the disturbance site.

From the previously-mentioned intersection, the center road leads directly to the disturbance site (Photo 2), but this is not an RS 2477 road. It may have been built by those who were mining the area.

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Observations:

The site contains a few relatively shallow outcrops of humic or carbonaceous shale, and there are other outcrops in the area. They are shallow and thin enough that it would not be practical to mine this deposit using underground mining methods.

The area that appears to have been mined recently is shown in Photo 3. The disturbance area is about 40 feet in diameter or about 1250 square feet. There is an additional disturbed area, shown in Photo 4, that appears to have resulted from loading the material.

Photo 5 is an area just up from the area in Photo 3. An exploration hole can be seen near the center of this photo, but based on the vegetation next to the hole, we do not believe this was dug recently.

Mr. Snyder indicated the mined material was taken to a processing facility adjacent to the home of Gerald Powell just south of Huntington (Photo 6). The processing apparently consisted of crushing and mixing the material. Mr. Snyder provided copies of invoices indicating 120 tons was sold to a farmer.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

A letter of noncompliance should be sent to Desert Lake Minerals and Emery Industrial Resources. If these entities are able to reacquire the lease, they could be allowed to obtain a permit for a small mining operation. Otherwise, they need to reclaim their disturbance. Little if any grading would be necessary to reclaim the area, but it should be scarified and seeded.

The operators may have disturbed more than the area shown in Photos 3 and 4, such as the road shown in Photo 2, but we are not certain of this. If it can be proven that this happened, the operators should also reclaim the road and any other disturbances they created.

jb
cc: Will Snyder
Gerald B. Powell
Dan L. Powell
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ATTACHMENT

Photographs S/015/091—Unpermitted WBF Quarry



Photo 1. View of the disturbance area. The only area that appears to have been disturbed by recent mining activity is on the right side of the photo. The RS 2477 road goes across the ridge near the center of the photo.



Photo 2. The main road comes up the draw from the lower left side of this photo. The road in the center of the photo is not an RS 2477 road and is not claimed by Emery county.



Photo 3. Out crop where it appears mining has occurred recently.



Photo 4. Area shown in Photo 3 (foreground) plus additional area that may have been used to load the material (center of photo).



Photo 5. Looking uphill from the area of Photo 3. At the top of this draw and just above the center of the photo there is what appears to be an old exploration hole.



Photo 6. Processing facility south of Huntington.